

STUDY AFTER SCHOOL DAYS.

THE SOCIETY TO ENCOURAGE STUDIES AT HOME.

PLAN OF ITS MANAGERS—NUMBER OF SCHOOLS—STUDIES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE—SUCCESS OF THE UNDERTAKING.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

BOSTON, Sept. 23.—The modest Society to Encourage Studies at Home, which has its local home in this city, is about to begin its third year, and the measure of success already gained confirms those interested in the belief that it occupies a useful and really important place. The Society is as simple in its organization as can well be. A committee of ten ladies constitute the management, and a gentleman well known for his scholarship and for his interest in all matters relating to sound education is Chairman, his duties consisting I believe, in presiding at the single meeting of the Society which is held in the course of the year. The only other officer is a Secretary and Treasurer, one lady filling both offices. The rules in force for ladies who desire to join the Society are brief and simple: The members must be at least seventeen years old; they must pay each a fee of two dollars a year at the beginning of each term to meet expenses of printing, postage, etc.; they are expected to try to devote a certain amount of time each day, or each week, to their work as members; when joining, each lady can procure a programme of studies from the Secretary, and when she has selected the branch or branches she wishes to pursue, she informs the Secretary of her choice and receives in return the directions and questions which have been prepared for the course she has selected, at the same time being informed to which member of the Committee and at what stated times she is expected to report her progress, when she will be supplied with further hats and directions. The books selected are as far as possible such as can be easily obtained, either by private purchase, which is desirable, or, in case of more expensive ones, from the libraries and book clubs, the Society itself lending a few at trifling charge to cover postage, wear and tear, while advice is given when asked with regard to the purchase of the books. The term for study is from Oct. 1 to June 1, when a meeting is held in some private house in Boston, where all the members are invited to hear the results of the year, and to take part in the giving and receiving of certificates and diplomas.

These rules indicate the simple plan pursued, and it is at once evident how unconventional it is, and how far removed from the customary system of compilation. It is meant in general for those girls who have finished their education, in common parlance, but have just begun to have a genuine love of reading and study. It appeals to their enthusiasm, and seeks rather to guide and direct the enthusiasm than to invoke it; to cultivate habits of study partially formed rather than to take up unformed, immature minds and instill first principles. It supposes a good groundwork of education in the first place, before it undertakes to edify further. Then it brings into play, too, the delightful relation which may so naturally exist between an older and a younger lady, and all under a simple system which is not embarrassed by too complicated a machinery.

The Society has from the first avoided publicity, and especially when the plan was in its experimental phase, the ladies were wholly unwilling to have the operation publicly discussed. Now that the experiment has borne the test of time, the results are such as to make them confident, and while they still keep the Society strictly a private one, they have permitted their circulars to pass now and then into the hands of those who are likely to use them in a more public manner. I do not feel at liberty to mention the names of any of those engaged in this excellent Society, but as they stand on the circular they represent families that have been long associated with the literary, scientific and educational interests of the city.

The last general meeting, held in June, gave occasion for some interesting reports as to the activity of the Society. Eighty-two names appeared on the list for the second term, and of these 23 students were present from various places in the New-England States and New-York; the places with whom correspondence is held are scattered over the country, in 35 towns, in 13 States, the most remote being Indiana and Tennessee. The records as kept indicate the quality of work done by each student, and it appeared that there was more than 70 per cent of satisfactory work, with 8 per cent of total failure; in other words, 50 students had done well, of whom 28 took highest rank, 13 second rank, and 16 third rank, while 7 had withdrawn or failed to report. This was a double gain on the first term when there were only 45 names and 60 per cent of satisfactory work. The courses open to the students had been six, and I give these in the order in which they were preferred by students, with the number choosing each; some students of course took more than one:

English Literature was selected by 43.

French was selected by 37.

German was selected by 19.

Latin was selected by 8.

Art was selected by 6.

To give some idea of the course in English literature, I add the list of books given to students taking that subject: Spalding's History of English Literature; Chambers's Manual of English Literature, or Chambers's Cyclopaedia of English Literature, which is preferable. After these, in chronological order, separate works of great authors, with special criticism, as Bacon's Essays, with Macaulay's Essay on Bacon; Milton's Areopagitica, with Seeley's Essay; Selections from Auden and Goldsmith, with Thackeray's Lectures on the Humorists, and others similarly chosen. Then students who would like to make a careful study of some of Shakespeare's plays with illustrative reading, are given the opportunity.

It is of course impossible to state results in more than general terms, but perhaps some idea can be formed of the character of the work sought from the students by naming the titles of three essays which were read at the meeting, eight essays having been sent in:

I. On the Political Aspects of Europe at the Beginning of the Sixteenth Century.

II. On Some Works of Art, as Described by Wornum, Compared with the Rules of Lessing.

III. On the Witches in Shakespeare's Tragedy of Macbeth.

The Society was suggested by a similar one in London, and I do not see why the plan cannot be taken up in half a dozen different cities and towns by committees working quite independently of each other, though no doubt the Boston ladies would gladly aid in such establishment by advice drawn from their own experience. The charm of the Society, to my mind, is in the freedom with which it works, being constantly to adjust itself to whatever minds it may include, requiring no elaborate system of regulation, checks, and rewards, and not concealing flimsy work under ostentatious names.

CHARACTER OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

INJUSTICE OF JUDGING OF THE PARTY BY ITS WORST LEADERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: "Let us appear not rash nor diffident; immediate valor swells into a fault." The editorial on "Massachusetts and Mr. Wilson" in to-day's Tribune seems to me to oversimplify in one or two material points. The chief point is as to whether the Republican of 1875 is worth saving; it is aimed to be decided on the negatively so soon after the worst acts of the party in the past. This does not look to me as thoroughly keeping with exactness when the question is looked at in all its phases. That all the offences against law and reason which the Government has seened to sanction deserve to be strongly condemned is not to be disputed, but I cannot think that they should overshadow all the good that has come out of them. If, as you say, the independent voter should hold for that party which gives the "fairest promise" in the reform of administrative abuses, then it must follow that the Republican party is entitled to that vote. It is continually reforming abuses the moment they are brought to the light. With the Democrats it is different. They allowed the Republicans to discover the abuses in New-York, and in such cases, when they are very frequent, they happen, the howsoever no unreasonableness in understanding how to shift responsibility and blame. In this fact the cause

is to me apparent why so much corruption is unfolded by the Republicans. The Democratic party is to be held responsible, it seems to me to be evident. Again, when you make a forecast as to the acts in a Republican "hour of victory," it strikes me you are a little too positive in saying "that every step of reform at such a time will be successful." I do not mean to discredit a man's forecast. It is true there are exceptions, as in the cases of Delano, Shepherd, Kellogg, Casey, and others, but it is hardly right, I think, to condemn the whole party for the acts of these disreputable Presidents and their friends.

FAIR PLAY.
Brooklyn, Sept. 17, 1875.

THE GALE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

RELIEF OF THE TEXAS SUFFERERS. PERFORMANCES TO BE GIVEN AT THE PARK AND FIFTH AVENUE THEATERS—LIST OF CONTRIBU-

TIONS.

A meeting was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Saturday afternoon for the formation of committees to act with such theatrical managers as will give performances in aid of the sufferers by the storm at Indiana and other Texas cities. The following committees were appointed: Committee of Arrangements, Gov. Warmouth, T. J. Cramer, John Codd, George H. Butler, E. L. D. Wicks, Col. Ochiltree; Committee on Correspondence and Printing, A. W. Orr, George A. Townsend; Finance Committee, L. P. Morton, W. T. Garner, S. B. French, S. L. M. Barlow, Fernando Wood, J. H. Brower. The first entertainment will take place at the Park Theatre on the afternoon of Oct. 4. Mr. Stratton having professed his theatre, Mr. and Mrs. Florence and their company have volunteered to play the "Mighty Dollar." The second performance will be at the Fifth Avenue Theatre on Oct. 6, in accordance with the following schedule:

FIFTH AVENUE THEATER, NEW-YORK, Sept. 24.

DEAR MR. OCHILTREE: Mr. Dayly has just returned from Cos Cob, and authorizes me to say that he will be happy to place his theatre at the disposal of the managers in aid of the sufferers from the inundations in Texas. The programme will probably consist of the current great successes. "Our Boys," with such other attractions as may be decided upon. Yours respectfully,

STEPHEN FISKE.

THE TRAVELERS' CLUB, NEW-YORK, Sept. 25.

MY DEAR MR. FISKE: In the name of the people of Texas, I thank you for your offer to place your theatre at the disposal of the managers in aid of the sufferers from the inundations in Texas. We will be supplied with further hats and directions.

The books selected are as far as possible

such as can be easily obtained, either by private purchase, which is desirable, or, in case of more expensive ones, from the libraries and book clubs, the Society itself lending a few at trifling charge to cover postage, wear and tear, while advice is given when asked with regard to the purchase of the books.

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